

STATE OF IDAHO
Department of Fish and Game

Joseph C. Greenley, Director

Quarterly Project Progress Report
CLEARWATER RIVER DEVELOPMENT OF
SPRING CHINOOK STOCKS

Project No. 88E25030

Contract No. 03-6-208-00029

Period Covered: January 1, to March 31, 1976

Columbia River Fisheries Development Program

April, 1976

Clearwater River Development of Spring Chinook Stocks

ABSTRACT:

Channel tenders were working at all three incubation channels during the quarter. No additional survival problems were noted from any source.

REPORT OF PROGRESS:

Observing Success of Egg Hatching

No major problems were encountered during the quarter.

The channels were all ice covered until the last part of March when warm winds and rain caused them to thaw quite quickly. Intragravel investigation at Crooked River Channel, which had a substantial sanding mortality during December, revealed more live alevins than had been expected. Fry were present along the edge of the channel where sanding was not as dense. Red River Channel is always a little behind the other channels since it is on a north aspect. I suspect a small mortality from freezing; however, I found numerous live alevins in all portions of each channel. One interesting aspect I did notice at Red River this winter was that many sac fry were being washed out of the channel. The flows were adequate but not of an extent great enough to flush the fish out. The only theory I can come up with is that there was heaving icing of the channel this winter and this icing may have restricted the passage area, increasing the velocity through the gravel, thereby forcing the fry out of the gravel and from the channel.

Tenders were watching the channels all last quarter. Periodic checks were made to each channel to evaluate operations and were found adequate.

Partial trapping will be undertaken at Red River Channel to obtain fry for release in Newsome Creek.

The Forest Service is going to start plowing the road over Nez Perce Pass the last of April and hopefully we will be able to drive into Indian Creek Channel by the first week of May. In any case, the traps are going to be installed at Indian Creek May 1st, and a West Fork Ranger Station employee will be monitoring it thereafter.

Smolt Releases

Clear Creek National Fish Hatchery released about 980,000 chinook smolts at 10/lb into Clear Creek the last part of March. They appeared in good condition; however, are considerably larger than the state's release size.

Chinook smolts from Rapid River and Sandpoint Hatcheries will be released in Lochsa and South Fork Clearwater Rivers next quarter.

Submitted by:

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